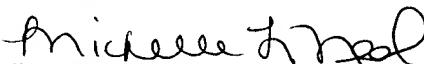


SEP 11 2002

PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group } Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10  
Art Unit: 1771 }  
Attorney } "EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER  
Docket No.: SHC0029-01 } EL 905875252 US  
Applicant: Toshio KABAYASHI et al. }  
Invention: Nonwoven Fabric and Method for Making the }  
Same }  
Serial No: 09/652,396 }  
Filed: August 31, 2000 }  
Examiner: Elizabeth M. Cole }  
DATE OF DEPOSIT September 11, 2002  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE  
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ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSIS-  
TANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WAS-  
HINGTON, DC 20231.  
on September 11, 2002  
  
Michelle L. Neal

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box: RCE  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to continuing the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 6 and amend claims 4 and 7 as follows:

4. (Three Times Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic synthetic microfibers, said method comprising the steps of: